

- The average yearly cost for child care in Orange County (infant up to 24 months) is almost 25% higher than the state average.
- The rate of Orange County's non-senior residents with health insurance coverage is higher than the state average, and lower than the national average.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The number of juvenile felony arrests and the number of property and violent crimes have declined in recent years, despite a concurrent increase in population. However, Orange County has experienced a rise in gang membership in almost all years since 1993.
- The number of children in out-of home foster or relative care has increased steadily since 1994/95, with out-of-home placement cases outpacing the rate of population growth. Orange County's out-of-home care rate compares favorably to most southern California counties.

ENVIRONMENT

- The number of days that portions of Orange County beaches have been closed to the public due to unhealthful conditions has increased steadily since 1996 (when beach closure measurements began to include closures at urban runoff-impacted areas).
- Fifty percent of the total amount of natural habitat in Orange County is currently protected through parks and open space preservation, with an additional 14 percent proposed for preservation.
- Overall, for the last nine years local waste going into Orange County landfills has decreased by 25%. However, during the last three years, per capita tonnage has increased.
- Orange County's air quality has steadily improved since 1989. Orange County has one of the lowest air pollution levels in the South Coast Air Basin.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- More than 60% of Orange County's registered voters have participated in all general elections since 1980.
- Orange County residents' perception of wellbeing has risen steadily since 1995.
- On average, 28% of our population donates \$500 or more to charitable organizations each year.